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Cypher/OTP

Mr. Addis

No. 347
May 11, 1962

PRIORITY
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D: 12.35 p.m. May 11, 1962
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Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 347 of May 11,
Repeated for information to Washington
Paris
Phnom Penh (for MacDonald)
and Saving to Moscow
Geneva
Singapore
and Bangkok.

My telegram number 357.

MacDonald and I had a second short meeting with General Phoumi yesterday afternoon. Phoumi himself raised the question of the place for the next meeting of the three Princes. We agreed with his view that Luang Prabang would from many points of view be most satisfactory, but pointed out that the other parties were likely to insist that it was their turn for a meeting at the Plain of Jars. Phoumi then said that if only Souvanna Phouma would come first to Vientiane to renew contacts the substantive meetings could take place at the Plain of Jars. We said that this was a new idea which we should like to think over. At first sight there seemed to be the objection that it was precisely over his bilateral talks with the Vientiane side that Souvanna Phouma had got into difficulties in March, not only with the Pathet Lao but also with some of his own supporters. It was, however, an interesting idea which might prove useful.

2. You will recall that Phoumi made a similar proposal to me last August (paragraph 3 of my telegram number 1072 of 1961) but failed to honour his undertaking. The suggestion which he has now made will certainly have to be treated with great caution. I should, however, see no objection to it being mentioned to Souvanna Phouma. It might conceivably provide a way out, but it would seem necessary before

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Souvanna Phouma agreed to visit Vientiane again that there should be cast iron assurances that a three Princes' meeting would follow at the Plain of Jars immediately.

Foreign Office pass priority Washington 131, Phnom Penh 5, Paris 58, and Saving to Moscow 23, Geneva 16, Singapore 20, and Bangkok 37.

[Repeated as requested]

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